

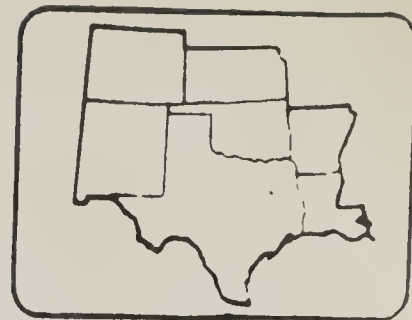
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SOUTHWEST REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICE

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SERVICE

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USDA Releases Preliminary Test Results for Nitrosamines in Bacon

Tests of 96 meat processing plants show none has been confirmed as violating U.S. Department of Agriculture limits of nitrosamines in bacon. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman, has reported.

Of the 96 plants examined, 79 were found to meet all safety levels as of Jan. 12. Seventeen failed the preliminary testing procedure but three plants changed their processing procedures and now meet required minimum test levels.

The 14 remaining plants are changing their production procedures to try to reduce nitrosamines to acceptable levels. Preliminary tests done by the Thermal Energy Analyzer (TEA) method will be confirmed by the more precise gas chromatography and mass spectrometry method, Foreman said.

The level at which nitrosamines can reliably be confirmed on an effective regulatory basis is 10 parts per billion or below, said Foreman. To insure these levels are met, the violation level for the seven types of nitrosamines range from 13 to 17 parts per billion.

If bacon from a plant exceeds any one of the levels of the seven nitrosamines, it is considered in violation and must be retested, Foreman said. The seven nitrosamines being tested for have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

"We are closely monitoring these samples and are confident that the industry will be in compliance," Foreman said.

Results of the tests were made public today in response to requests filed with the department under the Freedom of Information Act.

<u>Establishment</u>	<u>Location</u>
C. Finkbeiner, Inc	Little Rock, Arkansas
Swift & Co.	San Antonio, Texas
Ebner Bros. Packers	Wichita Falls, Texas
*Made Rite Sausage	Sacramento, California
*Lykes Brothers, Inc.	Plant City, Florida
*Bryan Foods, Inc.	West Point, Mississippi
Armour & Co.	Portland, Oregon
Swift & Co.	Rochelle, Illinois
Dubuque Packing Co.	South San Francisco, California
Portland Provision Co.	Portland, Oregon
Mid. South Packers Inc.	Tupelo, Mississippi
Medford's Inc.	Chester, Pennsylvania
Hoffman Bros. Packing	Los Angeles, California
Kern Valley Packing Co.	Bakersfield, California
Milan's Smoked Meats Inc.	Hayward, California
Dubuque Packing Co.	Dubuque, Iowa
Shen-Valley Meat Packers	Timberville, Virginia

The three plants check-marked on this list are the plants which have changed their plant procedures after initially having bacon samples show up above the violative level on the TEA test, and resubmitting samples which were found in compliance with the nitrosamine action level.

